

(a) whether Government propose to import natural rubber during 1989; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. As per the existing policy of the Government, the gap between demand and supply of natural rubber is met by resorting to imports. For the present, STC has provisionally been authorised to import 35000 M. Tonnes of natural rubber. The actual imports will, however, depend on the production of rubber and its consumption during the coming months.

Non-Acceptance of Small Denomination Notes by Banks

1326. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether nationalised banks particularly State Bank of India refuse to accept small denomination notes like Rs. 5/-, Rs. 10 and Rs. 20 from public wanting draft;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that banks do not harass the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Specific complaints received from public in this regard are looked into for appropriate remedial action.

Wholesale Price Index of Essential Commodities

1327. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the pattern of variation in the wholesale prices of essential commodities of mass consumption during 1988, commodity-wise;

(b) the reasons thereof;

(c) the concrete steps taken to control price-rise; and

(d) the weightage given to these commodities, commodity-wise, in compiling Wholesale Price Index and Consumer Price Index?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). The pattern of variation in the Wholesale Prices of selected essential commodities during 1988 along with their weights are given in the Statement below.

It may be observed that there has been significant deceleration in the rate of price rise during 1988 compared to the previous year — 4.9 per cent against 9.2 per cent. This was made possible thanks largely to a comprehensive package of demand and supply management measures and the favourable turn of the monsoon. The package of measures include adequate supply of essential commodities through the public distribution system, supplementing the domestic supplies by imports of these items as necessary; exercising strict monetary and fiscal discipline; action against hoarders and black-marketeers, and close monitoring of prices of essential commodities.

STATEMENT

*Variation in WPI of selected Essential Commodities during 1988**(end December to end December)*

Commodity	Weight		Percentage change	
	WPI	CPI*	1987	1988
1	2	3	4	5
1. Foodgrains	12.92	—	16.5	15.54
(a) Cereals	10.74	—	10.6	10.3
(i) Rice	5.13	—	9.9	7.9
(ii) Wheat	3.42	—	8.7	17.2
(b) Pulses	2.18	—	37.0	29.9
(i) Gram	1.04	—	32.1	66.4
(ii) Arhar	0.56	—	57.1	-23.0
(iii) Masoor	0.16	—	14.0	29.7
2. Edible Oils	3.72	—	19.8	-15.7
(i) Groundnut oil	1.42	—	27.3	-21.0
(ii) Mustard Oil	0.67	—	41.1	-33.1
3. Fruits & Vegetables	6.13	—	2.7	9.4
4. Milk & Milk Products	6.15	—	15.5	13.0
(i) Milk	4.52	—	13.9	16.3
5. Eggs, Fish & Meat	1.90	—	2.4	2.3
6. Condiments & Spices	1.09	—	41.8	58.4

1	2	3	4	5
7. Sugar, Khandsari & Gur	7.24	—	4.3	-1.8
(i) Sugar	2.19	—	1.0	4.9
(ii) Gur	4.56	—	5.8	-4.3
All Commodities	100.00	100.00	9.2	4.9

* The weights of individual commodities in CPI for Industrial Workers (1982=100) are worked out centre-wise for each of the 70 centres. These are not worked out for the General (All India) Index.

Round the Country special tickets

1328. SHRIKAMAL PRASAD RAWAT:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the facilities to be provided on round the country trips offered on Pandit Nehru's Birth Centenary to the touring public by the Railways in the matter of providing cheap accommodation and food besides railway reservations; and

(b) the cost of the round the country tour ticket in all the classes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Concessions/facilities available to passengers holding Nehru Yatri Tickets are detailed in the statement I given below. All other facilities including catering and retiring room accommodation are available to them at par with other railway passengers.

(b) The cost of the tickets for all the itineraries is also given in the statement II laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—7458/89]

STATEMENT-

Concessions/facilities

- (i) Fare indicated on these tickets is inclusive of a concessional lump sum amount of Rs. 50/- towards sleeper surcharges, reservation fees and super-fast charges irrespective of the number of break journeys. No separate charges are payable on these counts.
- (ii) Journey can be broken on these tickets without any distance restriction.
- (iii) The tickets are valid for 30 days from the date of commencement of first journey.
- (iv) This ticket is also valid for Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains on payment of the difference of fare.
- (v) 61 itineraries touching the places of historical, cultural and religious importance have been drawn.